

REMARKS

The application comprises claims 1-51, of which claims 1 and 24 are in independent form. Claims 1 and 24 are amended.

Rejections under 35 USC 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1 – 3, 5 – 8, 15 – 16, 18 – 19, 23 – 27, 29 – 32, 39 – 40, 42 – 43, and 47 – 48, and 50 – 51 for obviousness over Watkins (US5,568,534) in view of Nagle (US 6,225,107).

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 24 to more clearly define the invention for which protection is required.

The Examiner notes that Watkins provides an outline device without box walls inside the frame.

Applicant has amended the claims to define that the frame is mounted in the holder such as to provide a clear approach to all six of the faces.

Support for the amendment is on page 12 line 11 for the six faces and page 12 line 14 for a clear approach to the specimen.

Although Watkins provides a clear approach to three of the faces he fails to teach that using a holder could provide a clear approach to all six of the faces.

The information missing in Watkins is likewise missing in Nagle, where the box holds the specimen in its in vivo state and allows it to be examined but does not allow a clear approach for the specimen to be manipulated since the approach to the specimen is *clearly impeded* by the box walls.

Thus claim 1 defines:

"the structure further having at least one holder, for holding the first outline frame with the tissue specimen, the structure forming six faces, in a manner allowing a clear approach to each of said six faces for manipulation of said specimen, and fixing the orientation of the tissue specimen."

The same amendment has been made to claim 24, so that it too requires six faces and a clear approach to each face.

Thus independent claims 1 and 24 are believed to be inventively distinguished over the prior art.

The remaining claims are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of being dependent on allowable main claims.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 31, 2010

Enclosures:

- Petition for Extension of Time (Three Months)